

MERRIWETHER MIDDLE

P.O.Box 7010

North Augusta, South Carolina 29861

GRADES 6-8 Middle School

ENROLLMENT 394 Students

PRINCIPAL Virginia W. Culbertson 803-279-2511

SUPERINTENDENT Dr. Sharon W. Keesley 803-275-4601

BOARD CHAIR Bradley D. Covar 803-637-3775

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

ANNUAL SCHOOL REPORT CARD

2004

ABSOLUTE RATING:

GOOD

Absolute Ratings of Middle Schools with Students like Ours

Excellent	Good	Average	Below Average	Unsatisfactory
0	21	18	0	0

IMPROVEMENT RATING:

GOOD

The school's Improvement rating was raised one level because of substantial improvement in the achievement of students belonging to historically underachieving groups of students.

ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS:

YES

This school met 19 out of 19 objectives. The objectives included performance and participation of students in various groups and student attendance rate.

SOUTH CAROLINA PERFORMANCE GOAL

By 2010, South Carolina's student achievement will be ranked in the top half of the states nationally. To achieve this goal, we must become one of the fastest improving systems in the country.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WEBSITES AT:

WWW.MYSCSCHOOLS.COM

WWW.SCEOC.ORG

PERFORMANCE TRENDS OVER 4-YEAR PERIOD

	Absolute Rating	Improvement Rating	Adequate Yearly Progress
2001	Average	Unsatisfactory	N/A
2002	Good	Below Average	N/A
2003	Good	Below Average	No
2004	Good	Good	Yes

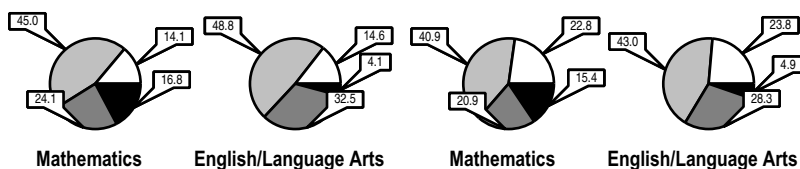
DEFINITIONS OF DISTRICT RATING TERMS

- Excellent - District performance substantially exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal
- Good - District performance exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal
- Average - District performance meets the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal
- Below Average - District is in jeopardy of not meeting the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal
- Unsatisfactory - District performance fails to meet the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal

PERCENT OF STUDENT RECORDS MATCHED FOR PURPOSES OF COMPUTING IMPROVEMENT RATING

Percent of students tested in 2003-04 whose 2002-03 test scores were located.

92.5%

PALMETTO ACHIEVEMENT CHALLENGE TESTS (PACT)**Our School****Middle Schools with Students like Ours****Definition of Critical Terms**

	Advanced	Very high score; very well prepared to work at next grade level; exceeded expectations
	Proficient	Well prepared to work at next grade level; met expectations
	Basic	Met standards; minimally prepared, can go to next grade level
	Below Basic	Did not meet standards; must have an academic assistance plan; the local board policy determines progress to the next grade level

NOTE: Science and social studies are to be included in the 2005 school report card.

PACT PERFORMANCE BY GROUP

	Enrollment 1 st Day of Testing	% Tested	% Below Basic	% Basic	% Proficient	% Advanced	% Proficient and Advanced (adj.)	Performance Objective Met	Participation Objective Met
English/Language Arts - State Performance Objective = 17.6%									
All Students	383	100.0	14.6	48.8	32.5	4.1	49.9	Yes	Yes
Gender									
Male	190	100.0	17.8	53.0	27.0	2.2	44.3		
Female	193	100.0	11.4	44.6	38.0	6.0	55.4		
Racial/Ethnic Group									
White	290	100.0	12.5	46.4	36.8	4.3	53.2	Yes	Yes
African-American	89	100.0	22.1	55.8	19.8	2.3	38.4	Yes	Yes
Asian/Pacific Islander	1	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S
Hispanic	2	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S
American Indian/Alaskan	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	I/S	I/S
Disability Status									
Not Disabled	339	100.0	10.7	48.6	36.1	4.6	53.8		
Disabled	44	100.0	45.2	50.0	4.8	0.0	19.0	I/S	Yes
Migrant Status									
Migrant	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		
Non-migrant	383	100.0	14.6	48.8	32.5	4.1	49.9		
English Proficiency									
Limited English Proficient	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	I/S	I/S
Non-Limited English Proficient	383	100.0	14.6	48.8	32.5	4.1	49.9		
Socio-Economic Status									
Subsidized meals	150	100.0	21.4	55.0	22.9	0.7	41.4	Yes	Yes
Full-pay meals	232	100.0	10.5	45.0	38.4	6.1	55.0		

Mathematics - State Performance Objective = 15.5%									
All Students	383	100.0	14.1	45.0	24.1	16.8	56.1	Yes	Yes
Gender									
Male	190	100.0	14.1	42.7	27.6	15.7	58.4		
Female	193	100.0	14.1	47.3	20.7	17.9	53.8		
Racial/Ethnic Group									
White	290	100.0	11.1	45.0	24.6	19.3	59.6	Yes	Yes
African American	89	100.0	24.4	46.5	20.9	8.1	43.0	Yes	Yes
Asian/Pacific Islander	1	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S
Hispanic	2	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S
American Indian/Alaskan	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	I/S	I/S
Disability Status									
Not Disabled	339	100.0	11.9	43.4	25.7	19.0	60.2		
Disabled	44	100.0	31.0	57.1	11.9	0.0	23.8	I/S	Yes
Migrant Status									
Migrant	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		
Non-migrant	383	100.0	14.1	45.0	24.1	16.8	56.1		
English Proficiency									
Limited English Proficient	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	I/S	I/S
Non-Limited English Proficient	383	100.0	14.1	45.0	24.1	16.8	56.1		
Socio-Economic Status									
Subsidized meals	150	100.0	22.1	49.3	21.4	7.1	43.6	Yes	Yes
Full-pay meals	232	100.0	9.2	42.4	25.8	22.7	63.8		

DEFINITION OF ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS

As required by the United States Department of Education, adequate yearly progress specifies that the statewide target is met for All Students and for the following subgroups: Racial/Ethnic, Subsidized Meals, Disability, and Limited English Proficiency.

PACT PERFORMANCE BY GRADE LEVEL

		<i>Enrollment 1st Day of Testing</i>	<i>% Tested</i>	<i>% Below Basic</i>	<i>% Basic</i>	<i>% Proficient</i>	<i>% Advanced</i>	<i>% Proficient and Advanced</i>
English/Language Arts								
2003	Grade 3	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Grade 4	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Grade 5	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Grade 6	142	99.3	27.7	47.4	22.6	2.2	24.8
	Grade 7	103	99.0	13.9	57.4	24.8	4.0	28.7
	Grade 8	111	99.1	25.9	50.0	21.3	2.8	24.1
2004	Grade 3	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Grade 4	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Grade 5	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Grade 6	158	100.0	21.2	44.2	30.1	4.5	34.6
	Grade 7	128	100.0	11.2	51.2	36.0	1.6	37.6
	Grade 8	98	100.0	10.4	54.2	29.2	6.3	35.4

Mathematics								
2003	Grade 3	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Grade 4	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Grade 5	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Grade 6	142	100.0	5.8	46.7	25.5	21.9	47.4
	Grade 7	103	100.0	17.8	40.6	25.7	15.8	41.6
	Grade 8	111	100.0	18.3	60.6	12.8	8.3	21.1
2004	Grade 3	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Grade 4	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Grade 5	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Grade 6	158	100.0	13.5	42.3	26.3	17.9	44.2
	Grade 7	128	100.0	12.8	36.8	28.8	21.6	50.4
	Grade 8	98	100.0	19.8	59.4	13.5	7.3	20.8

Abbreviations for Missing Data

N/A Not Applicable **N/AV** Not Available **N/C** Not Collected **N/R** Not Reported **I/S** Insufficient Sample

SCHOOL PROFILE

	Our School	Change from Last Year	Middle Schools with Students Like Ours	Median Middle School
Students (n= 394)				
Students enrolled in high school credit courses (grades 7 & 8)	42.7%	Down from 45.4%	23.2%	14.6%
Retention rate	5.6%	Up from 2.1%	2.0%	3.0%
Attendance rate	96.4%	Up from 95.5%	96.0%	95.9%
Students with disabilities other than speech taking PACT (ELA) off grade level	2.9%		4.9%	5.7%
Students with disabilities other than speech taking PACT (Math) off grade level	3.9%		3.9%	5.3%
Eligible for gifted and talented	31.5%	Up from 23.0%	23.1%	14.3%
On academic plans	N/AV	N/AV	N/A	N/AV
On academic probation	N/AV	N/AV	N/A	N/AV
With disabilities other than speech Older than usual for grade	11.3%	Down from 14.2%	12.7%	13.9%
	4.6%	Down from 5.2%	2.7%	4.2%
Out-of-school suspensions or expulsions for violent &/or criminal offenses	0.5%	Down from 0.8%	1.0%	0.9%
Annual dropout rate	0.0%	No change	0.0%	0.0%
Teachers (n= 24)				
Teachers with advanced degrees	45.8%	Up from 36.0%	51.9%	48.7%
Continuing contract teachers	91.7%	Up from 88.0%	87.1%	81.7%
Highly qualified teachers**	92.9%	N/A	91.3%	90.4%
Teachers with emergency or provisional certificates	4.5%		3.8%	5.3%
Teachers returning from previous year	84.5%	Down from 85.5%	86.7%	85.1%
Teacher attendance rate	94.3%	No change	94.8%	94.8%
Average teacher salary	\$38,716	Up 5.2%	\$41,237	\$40,566
Prof. development days/teacher	7.5 days	Down from 8.0 days	10.4 days	11.0 days
School				
Principal's years at school	5.0	Up from 4.0	4.0	3.3
Student-teacher ratio in core subjects	20.1 to 1	Down from 20.8 to 1	22.4 to 1	21.3 to 1
Prime instructional time	90.0%	Up from 88.4%	89.7%	89.3%
Dollars spent per pupil*	\$5,770	Up 577000.0%	\$5,666	\$5,821
Percent of expenditures for teacher salaries*	57.3%	N/A	62.7%	61.8%
Opportunities in the arts	Good	Down from Excellent	Good	Good
Parents attending conferences	98.0%	Down from 98.1%	95.5%	95.0%
SACS accreditation	Yes	No change	Yes	Yes
Character development program	Good	N/A	Good	Good
* Prior year audited financial data are reported.				
	Our District		State	
Highly qualified teachers in low poverty schools**	92.9%		92.0%	
Highly qualified teachers in high poverty schools**	83.3%		91.1%	
	State Objective		Met State Objective	
Highly qualified teachers in this school**	65.0%		Yes	
Student attendance in this school	95.3%		Yes	

**NOTE: The verification process was not completed for the year reported; therefore the count of highly qualified teachers may not be accurate.

REPORT OF PRINCIPAL AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL

Merriwether Middle School is located in rural Edgefield County not far from North Augusta, S. C. Our school serves approximately 400 sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students from various ethnic and economic backgrounds. We are committed to the middle school concept with our students scheduled in teams of teachers so that the transition from elementary to high school is made easier and so that teachers can integrate units of study and plan for students' success. Every student attends five academic classes and two exploratory classes each day. Language arts and reading classes are blocked to allow teachers to correlate speaking, listening, reading, and writing activities. Exploratory classes include art, chorus, band, physical education, keyboarding, journalism, technology, life skills, and reading and math enrichment. The computer assisted instruction lab affords students an opportunity to practice PACT skills. Students participate in a number of School-to-Work activities, such as: running the school store, producing the school newspaper, and producing the closed circuit television program. Each eighth grade student is offered courses for high school credit. Among the high school credit classes are band, keyboarding, English I, and Algebra I. Students are rewarded for academic achievement and character development with Awards' Days, Gold Cards, Student of the Month selection, etc.

Merriwether Middle School's motto is "We can't hide that Mustang pride," and we are proud of our accomplishments throughout the years. We received School Incentive Award recognition in 1994-95, 1995-96, and 1998-99. We received a visit from the Palmetto's Finest Committee in 1997. Every year we have a high number of students who qualify to take the PSAT, and we have had a number of Junior Scholars throughout the years. This past year we had 14 Junior Scholars. We participate in a number of academic competitions such as MathCounts, the district Spelling Bee, Lt. Governor's Writing Award, CSRA Science Fair, and various writing contests. We often have district, regional and state winners. Recently three of our students were chosen to be among Creative Communication's Top Ten student poets in North and South Carolina schools. Also, this year one of our students won first place in the Junior Division of the CSRA Regional Science and Engineering Fair. Additionally, our students placed third overall and first in several of the events in the Eco-Challenge meet held in Augusta, Ga. One of our proudest moments this year came when we were able to successfully publish a book from our students' interviews with local veterans.

Our school is an Accredited School with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and has an "all clear" status with the South Carolina Department of Education. Three of our teachers have received National Board Certification. We have an active Parent Teacher Organization and a very involved School Improvement Council. We have been described as "one of South Carolina schools' best kept secrets."

EVALUATIONS BY TEACHERS, STUDENTS, AND PARENTS

	Teachers	Students*	Parents*
Number of surveys returned	12	88	59
Percent satisfied with learning environment	91.7%	73.9%	80.7%
Percent satisfied with social and physical environment	100.0%	75.9%	78.0%
Percent satisfied with home-school relations	83.3%	75.9%	70.2%

*Only students at the highest middle school grade level at this school and their parents were included.